

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00811 041437Z

46/13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 AID-20 CIAE-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 FPC-01

SCI-06 FEA-02 COA-02 AGR-20 SAM-01 NSC-10 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 SAJ-01 NIC-01 PRS-01 /206 W

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R 011801Z JAN 74 ZEL

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5183

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 0811

CORRECTED COPY SANTIAGO ADDED AS INFO ADDEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UR, AR, RO, PL, CZ, HU, AU.

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE TRADE TALKS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

REF: BA-0411.

1. A 12-MAN SOVIET ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL MISSION ARRIVED
IN BUENOS AIRES ON JANUARY 30, 1974, TO DISCUSS A VARIETY OF
POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. THE
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 00811 041437Z

MISSION IS HEADED BY ALEKSEY NIKOLAVEVICH MANZHULO, DEPUTY MINISTER

OF FOREIGN COMMERCE AND CHIEF OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR TRADE WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES.

2. REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL BE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR EQUIPPING THE SALTO GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE ARGENTINE CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL BIDS ON THAT PROJECT HAVE BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED UNOFFICIALLY AS "THE MOST CONVENIENT", THOUGH NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. TALKS WILL ALSO BE HELD REGARDING A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT REGARDING FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS ON THE PARANA RIVER.

3. AMONG THE OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IS THE POSSIBLE SOVIET COLLABORATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PLATFORMS FOR OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING RIGS AND THE SUPPLY OF OILFIELD EQUIPMENT. THE PLATFORMS WOULD BE BUILT IN ARGENTINA WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS. SUPPLY OF CERTAIN COAL MINING EQUIPMENT ALSO WILL BE DISCUSSED.

4. THE ARGENTINES ARE ALSO REPORTED TO BE INTERESTED IN ACQUISITION OF SOVIET TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELDS OF PETROCHEMICALS AND FISHING, AND EXPLOITATION OF WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY SOURCES. INTEREST HAS ALSO BEEN EXPRESSED IN IMPORTING SOVIET BUTANE AND PROPANE DURING 1974 AND 1975.

5. FINALLY, DISCUSSIONS WILL ALSO BE HELD REGARDING ASPECTS OF MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AND THE DRAFTING OF A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT.

6. THE ARGENTINES HOPE TO SIGN A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS FOR THE EXPORT OF ARGENTINE BEEF AND MEAT BY-PRODUCTS COVERING AT LEAST FIVE YEARS. THE EMBASSY HAS FREQUENTLY HEARD THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PLANNING TO ADD AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF REFRIGERATED SHIPS TO THE ARGENTINE RUN EXPRESSELY TO FACILITATE SUCH TRADE. ADDITIONALLY, THE ARGENTINES ARE EXPECTED TO PUSH EXPORTS OF LIGHT INDUSTRY INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY REFRIGERATORS, WASHING MACHINES, OVENS, WAXERS, RECORD TURNTABLES, AND BICYCLES.

7. THE SOVIET DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN ARGENTINA FOR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BUENOS 00811 041437Z

SOME 10 DAYS.

8. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS ALSO REPORT THE DEPARTURE FROM ARGENTINA ON JANUARY 30, 1974, OF AN ECONOMIC MISSION THAT WILL VISIT RUMANIA, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND HUNGARY, SPENDING ROUGHLY 10 DAYS IN EACH COUNTRY. THE MISSION IS HEADED BY MINISTER FERNANDO LLERENA, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR TREATIES AND NEGOTIATIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. IF TIME PERMITS, THE MISSION WILL ALSO VISIT AUSTRIA BEFORE RETURNING TO ARGENTINA.

9. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION WILL BE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY SETTING UP A FACTORY IN ARGENTINA FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF CZECH HYDROELECTRIC TURBINES. IN POLAND DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF POLISH PARTICIPATION IN THE EXPLOITATION OF THE COAL DEPOSITS AT RIO TURBIO. THEY ALSO WILL RENEW DISCUSSIONS WITH THE POLISH STATE FISHING ENTERPRISE REGARDING THE POLISH OFFER OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ARGENTINE FISHING INDUSTRY (WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS DURING THE VISIT OF THE POLISH DELEGATION TO BUENOS AIRES IN LATE NOVEMBER 1973). IN RUMANIA THEY WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF RUMANIAN COOPERATION IN THE EXPLOITATION OF THE ASPHALT DEPOSITS OF LLANQUILELO IN MENDOZA. IN HUNGARY THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF HELPING TO PREPARE FOR THE VISIT TO ARGENTINA OF A HUNGARIAN MISSION WHICH IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ON MARCH 9, 1974.

10. OVERALL, THE ABOVE CONVERSATIONS REPRESENT CONTINUING EXAMINATION OF ISSUES AND POSSIBILITIES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED IN BUENOS AIRES DURING THE VISITS IN LATE 1973 MADE BY ECONOMIC MISSIONS SENT FROM EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES (EXCEPT RUMANIA AND THE SOVIET UNION).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, OFFSHORE DRILLING, EAST WEST TRADE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRADE VISITS, COMMUNIST ECONOMIC AID, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, TRADE AGREEMENTS, MEATS, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS00811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740167/aaaacloq.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BA-0411.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARGENTINE TRADE TALKS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.
TAGS: ETRD, UR, AR, RO, PL, CZ, HU, AU
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005